

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: UR, ELTN

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF RAILROADS CALLS FOR GREATER EFFORTS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 6240 (B) MOSCOW 17652 (C) MOSCOW 19194

1. NOTING BREZHNEV'S CRITICISMS OF THE RAILROADS DURING HIS TRIP TO SIBERIA AND THE RAILROAD'S FAILURE TO FULFIL THEIR TARGETS FOR THE TRANSPORT OF COAL, PETROLEUM AND WOOD CARGOES DURING THE FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 1978, MINISTER OF RAILROADS PAVLOVSKIY, WRITING IN SOTSIALIS-TICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA AUGUST 6 CALLS UPON ALL ORGANIZATI INVOLVED IN RAILROAD TRANSPORT TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMA HE ASKS THAT THE RAILROAD WORKERS THEMSELVES LEARN FROM THE METHODS OF THE LEADING COLLECTIVES, APPROVED BY THE CC CPSU AND BREZHNEV, INCLUDING THE LENINGRAD EXPERIMENT IN WHICH VARIOUS FORMS OF TRANSPORT IN ONE AREA ARE COOR DINATED FROM ONE CENTER (PRAVDA MARCH 24), AND THE WORKE OF THE YUZHNO-URAL'SKAYA RAILROAD AND THE ENTERPRISES OF CHELYABINSKAYA OBLAST' WHOSE METHODS ALLOW THE INTENS UTILIZATION OF EQUIPMENT. ALTHOUGH EXPRESSING HAPPINESS WITH THE INCREASED CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS TO THE RAILROADS,

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INCREASED DELIVERIES OF LOCOMOTIVES, FREIGHT CARS, AND VARIOUS MACHINES, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RAILROAD LINES, ON BEHALF OF RAILROAD WORKERS HE PLEADS THAT RAILROAD SUPPLIERS IMPROVE THE RELIABILITY OF DIFFERENT STEAM ENGINE ASSEMBLIES, ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TYPES OF ENGINES, SATISFY THE RAILROAD'S DEMAND FOR HIGH STRENGTH RAILS, AND ACCELERATE THE RECON-

STRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION OF LOCOMOTIVE AND FREIGHT CAR DEPOTS, AND MARSHALLING YARDS. HE CALLS UPON THE RAILROAD'S CLIENTS TO IMPROVE THEIR RATE OF LOADING AND UNLOADING FREIGHT CARS, IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE SPEED-UP OF THE TURN-AROUND TIME FOR FREIGHT CARS AND PERMIT MORE INTENSIVE USE OF THEM.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS STRUCK BY THE RATHER MILD TONE OF PAVLOVSKIY'S ARTICLE. HIS PREVIOUS ARTICLE CASTIGATED BOTH RAILROAD SUPPLIERS AND CLIENTS, LAYING THE BLAME FOR MANY OF THE RAILROAD'S SHORTCOMINGS ON THEM (REFTEL A). EMBASSY SEES LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED: THE RAILROADS WILL APPARENTLY NOT ACHIEVE 10TH FIVE YEAR PLAN GOALS FOR FREIGHT VOLUME (REF B), CONSTRUCTION AND ELECTRIFICATION IS BEHIND SCHEDULE (REF B), AND PRODUCTION OF FREIGHT CARS IS LAGGING (REF C). IT MAY BE THAT HE HAS BEEN MOLLIFIED BY THE ABOVE PLAN ALLOCATION OF INVESTMENT FUNDS IN 1977 EVEN THOUGH THIS MAY HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON RAILROADS OVERALL PERFORMANCE. (REF B) TOON

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